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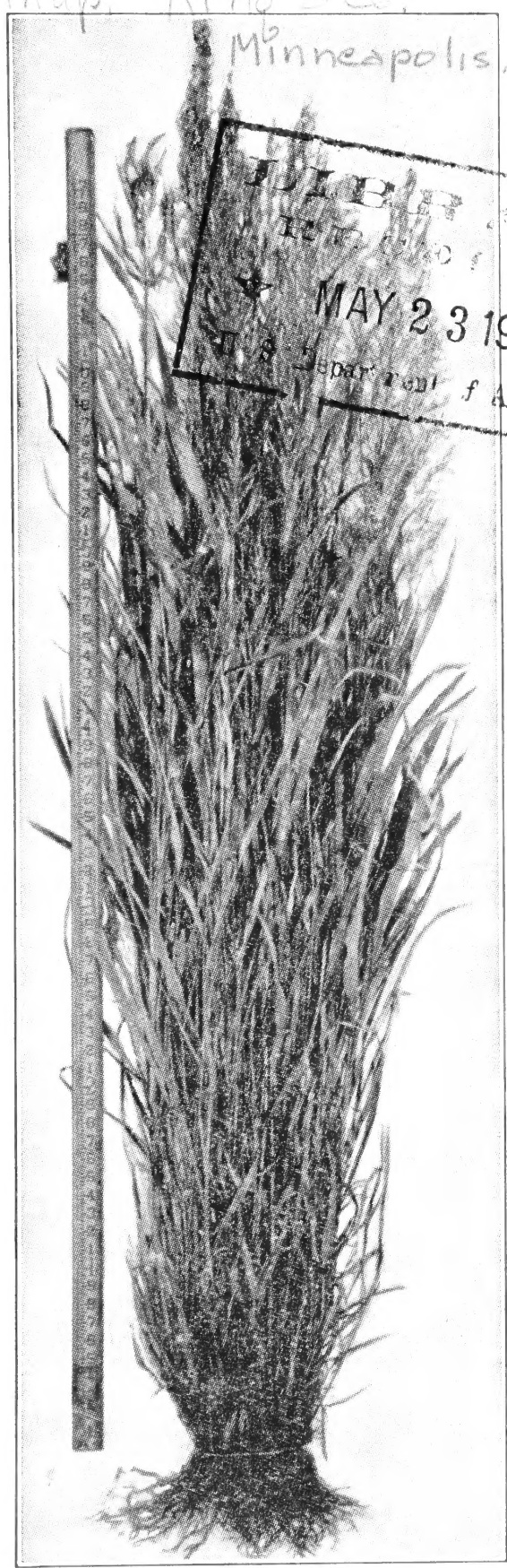
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1945

SUDAN GRASS

Northrup, King & Co.

Minneapolis, Minn



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U.S. Department of Agriculture

**The Ideal Emergency Hay and Pasture Crop
For Late Planting.**

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SUDAN GRASS

Time Of Planting

Sudan grass is a native of tropical Africa; therefore, it is necessary to wait for the soil to warm up in the spring before sowing the seed. If sown in cold soil, germination will be slow and irregular, many seeds will rot, and the plants that do start will grow very slowly until warm weather comes. In the meantime, weeds start and are likely to smother the Sudan grass. The period of May 15 to June 15 will be, on the average, as early as it is practicable to sow Sudan grass. It may be sown as late as July or August, but the yields of hay will be less and the pasture period shortened.

Soil Requirements

Soils which produce good crops of corn are well suited to Sudan grass. On the other hand, sandy soils that dry out quickly and cold, wet, heavy soils are not as well suited to the crop. Liming is seldom necessary for Sudan grass, since it grows fairly well on acid soils.

Seed Bed Preparation

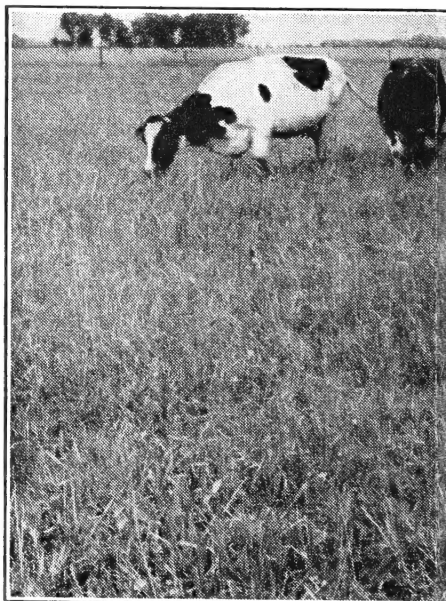
Early plowing and seedbed preparation as for corn, followed by two weeks of fallow cultivation to kill sprouting weed seeds, conserve soil moisture, and firm the seedbed, will generally give better stands of Sudan grass than if it is sown on a poorly prepared, loose, and dry seedbed.

Rate Of Sowing

Fifteen to twenty pounds of seed per acre will usually give a satisfactory stand, although 25 pounds are generally advisable if any unfavorable conditions are present. The heavier rates of seeding give the finer quality hay. Thin stands may yield as many tons per acre, but the coarse stems are harder to cure.

How To Sow

Sudan may be sown with a grain drill, using the wheat feed and drilling solid as for small grain (row seeding and cultivation are seldom used now outside of the seed-production areas). When set to sow two pecks of wheat, the drill will usually sow about 15 to 20 pounds of Sudan grass per acre. If the drill cannot be set to sow this small amount, the seed may be mixed with an equal bulk of screened, cracked corn. If the drill method cannot be used, the seed may be broadcast and then covered with a weeder, harrow, drag, roller or cultipacker. Any method may be used which will cover the seed shallow, one-half to one inch deep on heavy soils and one to two inches on light, loose soils.



This Sudan grass pasture per acre on rich soil in June. It will furnish grazing for live stock like Sudan grass the weather is thoroughly

If the seedbed is dry, rolling or cultipacking will hasten germination.

The alfalfa grass-seed drill with double feed is ideal for sowing Sudan grass. Use the feed having the large opening.

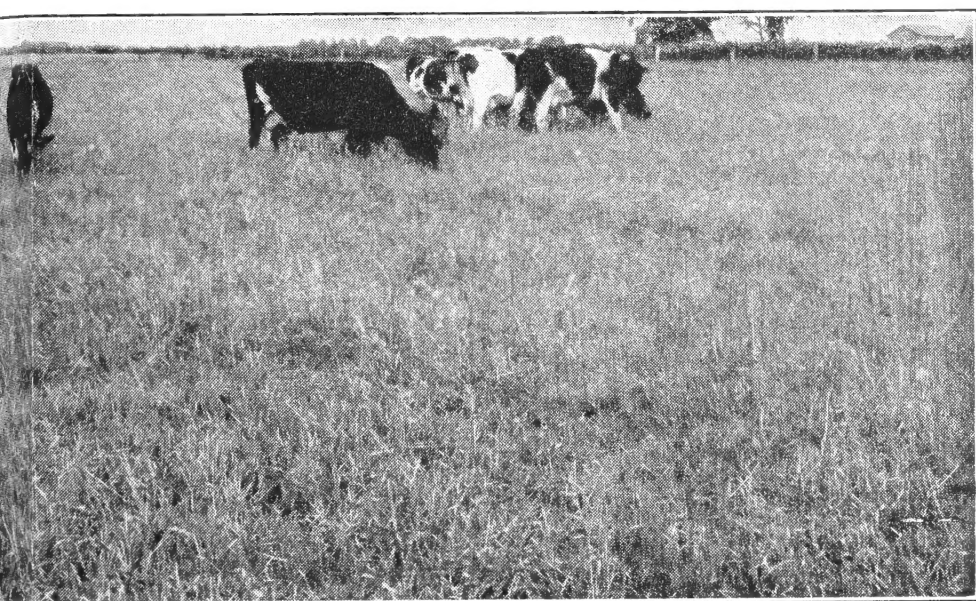
Effect Of Hot, Dry Weather

During periods of hot, dry weather, Sudan grass continues to grow after most crops have stopped and only checks its growth when the soil moisture becomes very low. It requires a greater amount of water to produce a pound of dry matter of Sudan grass than one of corn, but the extensive, fibrous root system of the Sudan grass enables it to draw upon the soil moisture to a greater extent than most crops. The advantage of having the seedbed well supplied with moisture at seeding time is thus explained. Sudan grass makes a quick recovery and grows vigorously just as soon as rain falls.

For Pasture

Sudan grass is one of the best summer pasture crops. It is usually big enough to pasture when it is five or six weeks old, or sooner if it gets 12 to 14 inches tall. The ability of Sudan to grow during the hot, dry weather of July and August makes it an ideal crop for that period, when native blue grass pasture is at its lowest carrying capacity. It withstands trampling to an unusual degree and furnishes a feed high in protein. One acre of Sudan grass gives approximately 215 cow pasture days. At the Hamilton County Experiment Farm (Ohio), in 1930 five acres of Sudan grass furnished pasture for 23 cows for 53 days.

Sudan grass for pasture should not be allowed to get coarse and woody as it has a tendency to do if the stand is thin or if it is not pastured heavily enough. It may be kept in a succulent condition by mowing off the tall shoots with a mower, with the cutter-bar set high to avoid cutting off the good pasture growth.



pasture was seeded broadcast at the rate of 25 pounds of seed in June. It was 18 inches high and ready to graze in 30 days. for two cows per acre through the summer. All kinds of grass—it has a sweet taste. Don't sow Sudan grass seed until warm in the spring.

Do Not Pasture Sudan After Severe Drouth or Freezing

Sudan grass sometimes develops prussic acid when frosted or when plant growth is stunted by severe drouth. Under such conditions, the grass should not be pastured but should be made into hay, as it is said that the poisonous properties disappear when frosted or stunted Sudan is made into hay.

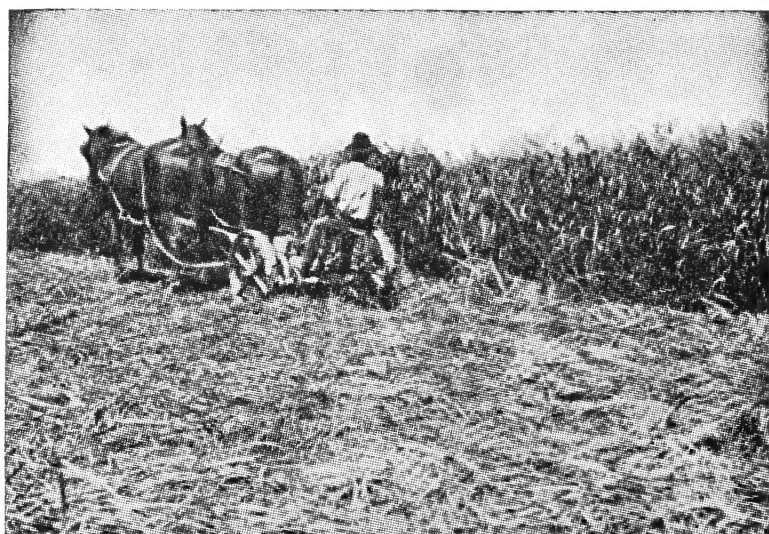
As A Hay Crop

Sudan should be cut for hay from the time the heads begin to appear until the seeds are in a soft, dough stage. The best quality of hay is made from the early cutting. If two cuttings are desired, the first cutting should be made when the grass is beginning to head. It takes from five to seven days of ideal weather to cure Sudan grass hay, because of the high moisture content and heavy growth of thick, succulent stems, and as a rule it is more practical to take one hay crop only and use the second growth for pasture until frost. The feeding value of Sudan grass hay is considered about equal to first-class timothy hay or medium-grade mixed hay.

Sudan grass will usually make from 2 to 3½ tons per acre on the first cutting, depending on the stage when cut. The later the cutting, the greater the volume of hay.

**Sudan Grass may be cut green for a
Soiling Crop.**

**Sudan Grass may be made into Silage where
its feeding value is about equal to corn silage.**



**The Mower Is Well Adapted To Harvesting
Sudan Grass For Hay**



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